according to the quota, it is being issued.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Safety Norms for Private and National Carriers

*341. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up new safety norms for both private and national carriers during the recently held meeting of DGCA, private taxi operators, Indian Airlines and Air India officials in New Delhi; and

(b) if so, the details of steps taken to enhance air worthiness standards of planes so as to ensure passengers' safety-keeping in view the recent incident, involving Damania Airways and Sahara India Airlines in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) At the meeting with private air taxi operators, Indian Airlines and Air India convened by DGCA on 18th and 19th March, 1994, the operators were advised to take the following additional measures to enhance safety of operations:—

(i) All pilots should practise flight procedures during emergencies on simulators during refresher courses,

(ii) Overhaul life of aircraft components should be reviewed, and

(iii) Air India and Indian Airlines should establish separate quality control and quality assurance divisions in view of their large-scale operations.

(b) Steps taken to improve airworthiness standard of aircraft and safety of aircraft operations include strengthening of quality control set up, prompt rectification of snags, establishment of adequate maintenance facilities, monitoring of Digital Flight Data Recorder and Cockpit Voice Recorder readouts, pre-flight medical examination of crew, observance of special precautions while operating to/from short airfields, adherence to standard operating procedures, implementation of recommendations emanating from accident investigation reports etc.

Hike in salary of Judges of High Courts/Supreme Court

*346. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN:
SHRI MISA R. GANESAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating a hike in the salary of Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether it would be extended to Judges in lower judiciary like district and Session Judges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) While the salary of the Judges of High Courts and Supreme Court was last revised in 1986, the admissible perquisites and allowances have been improved from time to time since 1986 keeping in view the dignity and status of the Judges.

(c) It is for the respective State Governments to consider the revision of the pay scales and other allowances of their judicial officers.

Losses to HMT

*347. SHRI S. MUTHU MANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount of loss incurred by the Hindustan Machine Tools Limited (HMT) during the financial year 1992-93 and the first half of 1993-94;

(b) whether it is a fact that the loss is mainly because of stiff competition from the manufacturers of watches and lamps in the private sector;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the sales of watches and lamps of HMT have come down heavily because of more attractive watches and lamps made available by private manufacturers in the market; and

(d) if so, what are the details of corrective measures the HMT contemplate to over-come this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) HMT incurred a net profit of Rs. 2.72 crores in 1992-93 and a provisional net loss of Rs. 75.28 crores during the first six months of 1993-94.

(b) and (c) The losses are mainly because of stiff competition, product obsolescence, high overheads, demand sluggishness and high inventories and debtors.

(d) HMT has re-organised itself into five business groups and has taken steps to reduce inventories, sundry debtors and overhead expenditure. Government has also allowed HMT in principle to convert its individual business groups into joint venture companies.